

# **FY2019 Formula Grant to the COA**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Regarding MA State Formula Grants to Councils on Aging**

Chatham MA – I am very pleased to announce that the FY 2019 State Formula Grant to MA Councils on Aging has been funded at \$12 per elder, a significant increase over the \$9.70 per elder funded in FY 2018. The funding formula utilizes the most recent Federal census (2010). Based on this figure of 2,941 seniors it is expected the Town of Chatham will receive \$35,292 in grant funds for the Chatham Council on Aging (COA).

Governor Baker signed the allocation into law on Thursday, July 25, 2018. This achieves the Massachusetts Councils on Aging's (MCOA) goal for the Formula Grant Campaign a full year ahead of schedule. The Governor and the full House and Senate deserve profuse thanks; this campaign had bipartisan and bicameral support.

The Formula Grant funds a wide variety of programs that promote, enhance and/or support the health, well-being and independence of seniors in our community. The Chatham COA utilizes these grant funds to work toward the goals and objectives born out of the key findings and recommendations from the COA's 2016 comprehensive community needs assessment. Formula Grant funds support the COA Program Coordinator's salary; COA vehicle maintenance; office, operational and program supplies; supplemental contracted cleaning services; monthly newsletter costs; staff training and professional development; MySeniorCenter technology; and volunteer training and recognition events.

The Board of Selectmen and Council on Aging Board encourage Chatham residents and taxpayers of 60 years over and caregivers to take advantage of the wide variety of programs, services and offerings at the Chatham COA/Senior Center. Volunteers are always needed whether it is a one-time project or on-going. Explore the COA website at [www.chathamcoa.com](http://www.chathamcoa.com) or call 508-945-5190.

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